



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES  
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With great pleasure it gives me to write a letter of support for Craig Garrison.

I have known Mr. Craig Garrison almost 14 years since November 15, 2004. Craig Garrison served as my Vice Principal from November 2004 until July 2007; from there he took on a mentor role and helped me in various ways over the years including the motivation to obtain my Masters Degree in Educational Administration. Today, Craig remains as a close friend of mine which I know I can call upon for help or guidance.

As Craig's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Army Instructor for Saipan Southern High School; Craig has been instrumental and vital to our successes as a JROTC program through his ***understanding, support, and leadership.***

Craig clearly understands and is in ***total support of governmental and Department of Defense agencies.*** Garrison continuously interacted with Saipan's Senators, House Representative, Governors, Mayors, Council Chairs, and Public School System personnel to name a few; as well as, interacting with leadership from the Pacific Fleet, United States Coast Guard, Department of the Army, Cadet Command Western Region Commanders, and the Department of Interior.

Craig has always been in support of our JROTC program cadets and consistently advocates to students pursuing the active US military the importance of their commitment. His desire to see students achieve the best and pursue college while in the military and advocate pursuing officer candidacy stands out above any school leader. Craig always went above and beyond the call of duty to provide sufficient resources which allowed the JROTC program to develop an exceptional program. His commitment to ensuring we had a supply room, caged in arms room, conference room, staff room, and classroom enough to comfortably sit 45 students was exceptional where other schools lagged behind. In addition, Craig ensured we were given a Drill Pad large enough to double for our physical training needs, provide a separate storage room for uniform and encampment supplies. Craig's generosity to ensuring our program acquire all of its needs during our financial cuts led him to write grants to provide the JROTC program with 100% Drill and Ceremonies equipment and uniform parts showed he took great pride in the US Military and is a highly patriotic leader. Additionally, Craig provided the JROTC

program with networked computers which allow us to network the system into the Cadet Command administrative and logistical programs and further an effective communicative system. Support like this had enabled our JROTC program to achieve the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rating worldwide with an inspection score of 598/600 earning the title of Honors Unit with Distinction. Our Battalion Commander LTC Karen Echon earned the Medal of Valor Bronze Star awarded by our visiting guests the Secretary of the Interior, Asst. Secretary of the Navy, Brigadier General of the Army all while under Mr. Garrison's leadership.

Craig has also been instrumental in assisting those under his charge both employees and former students who return from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq in obtaining resources needed to adapt back into civilian life including employment, counseling, and medical resources. He takes a personal interest in the welfare of all of our military personnel and presents a very honorable character trait as a leader.

Leadership has never been in short supply with Craig. On Saipan which is a Commonwealth of the United States, "red tape" was at times virtually impossible to cut through to complete the simplest task. Craig's rapport with the local cultures of the Chamorro's and Carolinians had enabled our program to run seamlessly. There was never a moment where Craig would not miss the opportunity to be present with the student cadets and participate with our various trainings and Encampments; joining in on the training be it physical education, land navigation or road marches. Although JROTC conducted a thorough and effective risk management stance, Craig too would interact to insure no holes were breached. Safety was always high on his priority list without compromising the need of the training.

Craig's leadership is clearly phenomenal and could adapt to all situations and full ***utilize all 3 leadership styles*** as needed.

Craig himself fully ***understands the stressors and difficulty of military deployments, Permanent change of station moves, and loss of family members in conflicts*** which translate to an effective leader of dealing and supporting the needs of military and governmental personnel.

Craig has an adaptive approach about him which gives the individual the true sense that he cares and you the individual/group he is interacting which feels that importance. I have personally watched his actions with all levels from a single student, group of students, students and family members, the entire JROTC Instructors staff, Cadet Command, and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Government. Craig has a way about him where he gains the trust and attention of all whom he communicates with.

Of all the leadership ***traits and characteristics*** listed by the United States Army, I feel Craig's strongest trait is his ***dedication*** and Craig's strongest characteristic is ***selfless service***.

Dedication levels for Craig Garrison work goes well beyond a paycheck, the school grounds, and any one country. I have called upon Craig's help during my pursuit of my Master's degree in Educational Administration which I had attended in Bangkok Thailand. Craig has interacted with me both in country as well as via internet. I have also personally known Craig to hand deliver care packages to his former JROTC students abroad who attend school overseas and in the mainland US. Fact is any and all countries (including America) Craig will go the extra mile to visit his former students, even on the military bases of those who are serving our military.

There is no doubt in my mind, that Mr. Craig Garrison is a true patriot and will go out of his way to support the US military in any field of operation and its efforts to recruit and enlist active US military personnel.

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